

Norway in a Nutshell

Sep. 2015

Hei, hei! It has been a month since school started at the university of Oslo. I guess I would like to share with you something about school life in Oslo this time, maybe you could find something both in common and different from experience at Berkeley.

This semester I am taking 3 courses, Norwegian Life and Society, Scandinavian welfare system, and North/South Development, which each accounts for 10 units. A full course load per semester has the minimum requirement of 30 units. A course can be in the form of lecture or a combination of lecture and seminar.

One thing to mention is that instead of one particular professor for each course, we have several professors who take turns to deliver lectures. We are thus able to get in touch with different teaching styles and perspectives in interacting with the learning materials.

This is the lecture of Norwegian Life and Society class, a course exclusively offered for international students to learn about Norway from various aspects including history, literature, culture, political system, education, family, and so on.



Lecture

Library located in our faculty building, providing services including renting books, printing, copying, scanning, computer using, and self-study area.



Beside is the room for group discuss outside of class.

Another difference in education curriculum between Oslo and Berkeley is that the final exam here accounts for 100% of the final grade, while in Berkeley, other factors like attendance, participation, projects also counts. There is no "midterm", but I do have one term paper for each course to be turned in in October. It can be in form of essay or research paper, depending on specific instructions. Only if the paper is passed am I qualified for taking the final exam. It could be challenging for students like me who are used to the system which helps break down the work and encourages consistent working throughout the semester.

As for now, I am feeling good; topics are interesting, readings are informative; lectures are organized. Every day I can learn something new not only from class but also from other people and this cool city. That is exactly the ultimate purpose of my experience of study abroad in Norway, I suppose.

Building of Faculty of Social Science.

